Rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler irrigation sets, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers' trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

Slums on Railway Property in Maharashtra

2366. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will come forward to solve problems of slums on the railway property by joining hands with the Maharashtra State Government for the purpose;

(b) if not, whether Government have any other scheme in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Resettlement/Rehabilitation of slum-dwellers is the responsibility of the State Government.

Import of High-Yielding Tobacco Seeds

2367. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of importing high-yiedling high quality tobacco seeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CTRI has made any time bound programme to raise the present red soil tobacco yields in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. The collection of germplasm including of high yielding varieties from various countries is a continuing programme through National Bureau of Plant Genetic resources (NBPGR) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for evaluation, maintenance and release of promising lines suitable for different tobacco growing conditions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The yield level of Virginia tobacco in red soils has been improved substantially in the past due to release of high yielding blank Shank disease resistant varieties developed/identified by Central Tobacco Research Institute. The various high yielding and disease/pest resistant varieties developed/ identified during recent past, include CM-12(K), NLS-4, NLS-5 etc.

Non-Punctuality of Narzapur Express

2368. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narzapur Express in South-Central Railway is known for its non-punctuality;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has never reached Narzapur on time in 1996 so far; and

(c) if so, how does the South-Central Railway propose to improve the punctuality of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The punctuality performance of Narzapur Express is satisfactory.

(c) Does not arise.

News item captioned "Pollution control scheme a non-starter"

2369. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned ""Pollution control scheme a non-starter", as reported in the Statesman, dated 28th July, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the scheme to have pollution checking centres at all petrol pumps in the city have failed to achieve its goal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND